

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING SOLVAY POLYMERS, INC., AND SOLVAY INTEROX, INC.

HON. KEN BENTSEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 9, 1998

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Solvay Polymers, Inc., and Solvay Interox, Inc., Battleground Road Plant Site, upon their selection by the La Porte/Bayshore Chamber of Commerce as the 1998 Industry of the Year. Solvay's commitment to building a better future for the La Porte/Bayshore community has made it an example all industry can follow.

Solvay Polymers and Solvay Interox are subsidiaries of Solvay America, Inc., a holding company for the Solvay Group, a multinational group of chemical and pharmaceutical companies headquartered in Brussels, Belgium, with operations in more than 40 countries. Some 600 employees and approximately 500 contractors work at the two companies' Battleground Road plant. Located on 274 acres, the plant in more than four decades has grown from a one-product site into the two businesses that manufacture a wide range of products.

In addition to being an integral part of the area economy, the two companies also contribute greatly to the community. Their employees participate in such organizations as La Porte's Local Emergency Planning Council, Citizens' Advisory Council, La Porte Education Foundation, La Porte/Bayshore Chamber of Commerce, and Boys and Girls Harbor. The employees contribute almost 5,000 volunteer hours annually to surrounding communities. The company's stated goal is for La Porte citizens to feel that the community is a better place because of their neighbors, Solvay Polymers and Solvay Interox.

Dedication to worker safety and environmental performance has also been a hallmark of the two companies. Their employees actively participate in the Chemical Manufacturers Association's Responsible Care program, which promotes continuous improvement of health, safety, and environmental performance. Through a pollution prevention and waste minimization program, the plant reduced emissions of government reportable waste compounds by 50 percent between 1987 and 1996. The site holds a charter membership in Clean Texas 2000, and employees are dedicated to demonstrating a high level of commitment to the continued safe operations of the plant, along with the safety of the surrounding community.

The Battleground Road plant has a significant history. Solvay's predecessor at the site, Celanese Corporation, started plastic production at the plant in 1957, making it one of the first sites to produce high-density polyethylene. Today, Solvay Polymers, the plastics company, annually produces 1.7 billion pounds of high-density polyethylene and nearly 800 million pounds of polypropylene at this

site. This combined production level makes the site one of the world's largest plastic production facilities.

These plastics are used to make many products essential to everyday life. For example, high-density polyethylene is used to manufacture milk bottles, gas tanks, children's play toys, plastic bags, and liners. Polypropylene products include food containers for products such as ketchup and syrup, carpet backing, and children's products such as car seats and high chairs. The site's new polypropylene gas-phase line makes a special impact resistant polymer used to make automobile bumper fascias and other car parts.

The second company, Solvay Interox, produces more than 100 million pounds of hydrogen peroxide each year. This product is used in the pulp and paper industry as a wood pulp bleach and also has many environmental applications such as wastewater treatment and cleanup of contaminated soil. The company's high purity hydrogen peroxide is used as a cleaning and etching agent in the semiconductor industry. The site also produces persalts (percarbonates and perborates), which are used as color-safe brightener/deodorizers for fabric detergents.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Solvay Polymers, Inc., and Solvay Interox, Inc., on being named the La Porte/Bayshore Chamber of Commerce 1998 Industry of the Year. This honor is well deserved for their work in expanding business and job opportunities, producing products vital to our everyday lives, their commitment to environmental protection and worker safety, and their many contributions to the community.

IN HONOR OF THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FRANK E. CAMPBELL BURIAL AND CREMATION COMPANY

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 9, 1998

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Frank E. Campbell Burial and Cremation Company on the occasion of its centennial anniversary. On Wednesday, October 21, Cardinal John O'Connor will be a special guest at Frank E. Campbell's 100th anniversary celebration.

In 1898, when Frank E. Campbell first opened the doors of his funeral home, he revolutionized the way people thought about funeral service. In the late nineteenth century, most funerals were conducted in private homes. But since a majority of New York City residents were living in apartments by this time, they did not have the capacity to handle large events.

Frank Campbell also understood the need of families to have time to grieve for their loved ones. By transferring the burden of planning a funeral from the families to a funeral home, Campbell eased the time of mourning.

Frank Campbell's funeral home combines a peaceful and serene atmosphere with an attentive and courteous staff. Over the past one hundred years, the Frank E. Campbell Burial and Cremation Company has served families from every strata of society including royalty of many nations and members of the arts and entertainment world. Frank Campbell's makes a concerted effort to honor the individual in the style in which he or she lived.

Over the past century, Frank E. Campbell has become a landmark on the Upper East Side of Manhattan.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to bring to your attention the Frank E. Campbell Burial and Cremation Company as it celebrates 100 years of serving New Yorkers in their times of grief.

RAILROAD ECONOMIC REGULATION

HON. SPENCER BACHUS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 9, 1998

Mr. BACHUS. Mr. Speaker, Dr. Alfred E. Kahn, the noted economist and "father of deregulation," has rightly earned our gratitude for his work over the years. With all due respect, however, Dr. Kahn is doing himself and his many admirers a disservice in his continued calls for increased economic regulation of the freight railroad industry in this country.

Dr. Kahn testified on April 22, 1998, before the Subcommittee on Railroads of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. At that hearing, he testified at length on his perception of anti-competitive conduct by the rail industry and his suggestions on steps that should be taken to alleviate such conduct. Dr. Kahn has repeated his viewpoints at other times and in other venues in recent months, including testimony to the Surface Transportation Board. Most recently, an interview with Dr. Kahn was the basis for an article in the October 5, 1998 issue of *Traffic World*. In that interview, Dr. Kahn continues to advocate misguided railroad reregulation.

At the April 22, 1998 hearing at which I was present and engaged in considerable discourse with proponents of reregulation, Dr. Kahn was challenged by a number of experts in railroad economics and finance. In my opinion, his pronouncements were inconsistent with operating and marketplace realities. I respectfully submit he likewise errs on a number of points in the recent *Traffic World* article, including the following:

Dr. Kahn's basic premise is that service by a single railroad is equivalent to monopolization and that competition does not now exist for shippers. To the contrary, railroads face intense competition from other railroads, from other modes such as trucks and barges, and from other sources for the vast majority of their traffic. Shippers of all types, including those which are served by only one railroad,

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